

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1 and 3-19 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Entry of Amendment

It is respectfully requested that the present amendment should be entered into the official file in view of the fact that the amendments automatically place the application in condition for allowance. Specifically, Applicants have rewritten the independent claims to include limitations of the dependent claims which have been indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, no new issues are being presented. The number of claims is being reduced and the application is being placed in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 2, 3, 5, 13 and 17-19 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, claims 5, 13 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 2 has been added to independent claim 1 together with the word "substantially" to place this claim in condition for allowance. Likewise, the limitations of claims 20-24, which duplicate claim 1 have also been added to their respective independent claim making these claims likewise allowable. Accordingly, all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim for Priority

Applicants note that the Examiner has again acknowledged the claim for foreign priority and indicated that none of the certified copies have been received. However, as indicated in the previous